



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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## Accountability is Centerpiece of Bush Plan, Secretary Paige Says

Education Secretary Rod Paige touted President Bush's testing plan in an Op-Ed in Sunday's *Washington Post*. Excerpts are included below:

"Anyone who opposes annual testing of children is an apologist for a broken system of education that dismisses certain children and classes of children as unteachable. The time has come for an end to the excuses, for the sake of the system and the children trapped inside."

"The centerpiece of the president's *No Child Left Behind* plan is a system of high standards, annual testing against those standards of every child in third through eighth grade, and a system of accountability that makes schools responsible for results."

"And when you test, you give irrefutable and invaluable information on student progress to parents, teachers, administrators, community members and policymakers. By making the results visible, you give each of these stakeholders a powerful incentive for change where the results aren't good enough, and for recognition and growth where the results meet and exceed our standards. Without those results, those who care deeply about the success of our schools and our students would persist in the hopeful but misguided belief that everyone and every school is making progress."

"Nationally, record high levels of spending by the federal government have failed to improve student performance. The time has come for meaningful change across the country, and that means annual assessment and accountability for every child and every school. The opponents of testing would have us cling to the status quo, and I have yet to hear an argument in favor of that."

### Message of the Day

**Americans support President Bush's innovative approach to improving the quality of our public education system.**

- ❑ *States and local schools using federal education dollars must be held accountable for results.*
- ❑ *Parents should have the right to know whether their children are truly learning.*
- ❑ *The only way for parents to know for certain whether their children are learning is to measure, and measure regularly.*
- ❑ *The American people strongly support the Republican plan to test students and empower parents.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The Bush plan requires states and local schools to demonstrate results through annual reading and math assessments for students in grades 3-8. It authorizes \$400 million to help states design their own tests.
- H.R. 1 **explicitly bans national testing**, federally controlled curriculum, and national teacher tests.
- A new poll conducted by the Winston Group, a widely respected GOP national polling firm, shows that Americans strongly support President Bush's testing plan by a 72-23 percent margin. **Of note, conservatives supported the testing plan by a large margin of 80-16 percent.**

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I consider assessment to be one of the most important pieces of education reform, because without it, you'll never know whether any of the initiatives you've undertaken -- at the state, local, or federal level -- have really made a lick of difference in increasing academic achievement." **Lisa Graham Keegan, former Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, March 14, 2001**